GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6163
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2001
IMPORT OF PAPER
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the large scale import of paper and newsprint has adversely affected the indigenous manufacturing units, particularly the Hindustan Paper Corporation;

(b) if so, the reasons for importing large quantity of paper when the requirement can be met by the domestic paper manufacturers;

(c) the quantity of paper/newsprint imported during the last two years and how far the rates compare with the indigenously produced paper;

(d) whether the Government propose to stop/minimize the imports; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) to (e) : The import of newsprint paper as classified under Exim heading No. 48.01 of ITC (HS) is permitted without an import licence subject to actual user condition by holders of `Registration Certificate` issued by the Registrar of Newspaper of India (RNI) at 5 % customs duty. The import of other paper is confined only to specialty paper like art paper, Kraft paper, photo base paper etc. These imports are subject to customs duty of 35% basic duty + 16% CVD + 4% SAD.

Quantity of paper imported during the last two years and comparable prices of (indigenous/ imported) are as below:-

Import (in lakh tones)

Year	Newsprint	Other paper & Paper board
1998- 1999	4.27	2.71
1999-2000	2.96	2.77
2000-2001 (upto November)	3.00	2.03

Prices (per M.T.)	Indigenous	Imported
Newsprint	Rs.16500/- to Rs.30450/-	Rs. 30690/- to Rs.33480/-
Creammove/ Maplitho	Rs.31575/- to Rs.34207/-	Rs. 32200/-to Rs.36800/-

There is no proposal to impose any quantitative restrictions on these imports.